



DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING

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Jim Doyle
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State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

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Dear Provider:

The Division of Health Care Financing and the Wisconsin Medicaid program wish to clarify coverage of the new FluMist vaccine.

Wisconsin Medicaid coverage for flu vaccines follows the Vaccines for Children (VFC) guidelines. The VFC program limits flu vaccine to:

- VFC eligible children six months to 18 years of age who have high-risk health conditions;
- healthy infants and toddlers six months to 23 months of age;
- healthy children 5 to 18 years of age who are household contacts (Category 2 contacts) of any family member in a medically high-risk group (Category 1 patients).

The VFC does not approve use of any flu vaccine in healthy children 2 to 18 years of age without a high-risk health condition or a high-risk household contact. Additionally, FluMist is contraindicated for use in children 5 to 18 years of age who are immunosuppressed, or are household members where immunosuppressed individuals reside.

The VFC program makes injectable flu vaccine available free of charge to all VFC providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid will reimburse for FluMist vaccine only when the prescribing physician determines it is a medically necessary replacement for the injectable inactivated influenza vaccine. In these cases, the physician should document in the child's medical record the reason why FluMist is a medical necessity.

Unlike injectable inactivated influenza vaccine, FluMist costs the Medicaid program \$54.31 per treatment.

Storage for this vaccine may also be an issue. The package insert says "FluMist may be stored in a non-frost free freezer to be maintained continuously at -15 degrees C or below. Storage of FluMist in a frost free freezer should be avoided because the temperature could cycle above -15 degrees C, and can therefore, negatively impact the stability of the product."

Additional questions regarding the use of FluMist in the Wisconsin Medicaid population may be directed to provider services.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Moody
Administrator

Richard M. Carr, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

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